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A History of England and the British Empire. By ARTHUR D. INNESS. Volume I., to 1485. Volume II., 1485-1688. (London: Rivington. 1913. Pp. xxxiii, 539; xxxi, 533.)

THIS work frankly is intended not for scholars but to appeal to the general reader, with a hope that it may also be of service to young people who have reached what Englishmen know as "the sixth form". The author states that he does not hope to compete with the great modern composite works, but rather while giving "less of detail and less of exposition of evidence than the specialist", to present the history of England as the "work of one hand, of one writer, viewing the entire subject as a complete whole, not a series of monographs".

The scope of the book is inviting. The author's theme is not England but the British Empire; not the Anglo-Saxon Empire, but as we are teaching ourselves to-day, the Anglo-Celtic Empire. This is good and is modern in spirit. Yet in the first volume the comparatively meagre attention given to Celtic peoples hardly fulfills this pledge. In defense the author says that up to the reign of Henry VII., "this history is practically the history of England in which the subordination of Ireland, Wales and the development of Scotland play only a minor part"—only another way of saying—we take it—that apart from English history there is nothing much worth while in the early history of these later contributing peoples—a point of view that has distinguished most English historians up to date.

The Tudor period, on the other hand, is treated largely as a preparation for the union of Great Britain and from this point the stream flows in wider volume. "The British Empire definitely begins with the union of England and Scotland under one crown and the commencement of Colonial dominion and of our Indian establishment." Thus also the author justifies his title *A History of England and the British Empire*.

From this angle, therefore, the author is strictly consistent in making his first volume largely a history of England until he reaches the sixteenth century. The second volume is given to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and is largely, although by no means altogether, devoted to the preparation for union and empire.

In volumes III. and IV., we are promised a fuller treatment of the larger relations into which England merges as a result of the accession of William III. In other words the author promises not only to justify his more pretentious title but also the assignment of two entire volumes to the comparatively short period that remains.

So much for the plan of the book. It is rather attractive; any plan is pleasing that promises to present a great agglomerate whole with unity and progress. The equipment of the author, however, for the successful presentation of such a scheme, judging from these two volumes, may be fairly questioned. In short *England and the British*

Empire, as far as we have it, is the most convincing argument we have yet met, in favor of the modern method of writing national history. Even a casual reader of these two volumes must feel that the author is far more at home when writing on English history than he is when writing on contemporary Celtic history and that he handles with a much surer touch Tudor or Stuart history than he does English medieval history. In fact, frankly, the reviewer suspects that the author's studies in the medieval field have never gone much beyond Freeman and Stubbs or at best Maitland. At least his treatment of this period shows little or no acquaintance with recent critical work. But even within these limitations, he has not always taken the pains to understand his authorities or represent them clearly. Note particularly his treatment of Anglo-Saxon methods of trial on pages 77-78, or of Henry II.'s innovations in methods of procedure on pages 188-189.

The second volume is better. The general summaries are very good; particularly the chapter, From Medieval to Modern, in which are summed up the various influences that launched Europe into the new era. Yet strangely enough the author is silent upon the economic influences that were just as surely preparing men's minds for the break with the old order as new theories of nature, or of Church and State.

Throughout the writer labors under the handicap of a style that lacks both precision and lucidity, and at times even dignity—certainly a style that is entirely unsuited to the class of readers that he avowedly seeks to reach.

In passing, we note the reappearance of Freeman's absurdly pedantic spellings of Anglo-Saxon proper names, as well as the old stockade wall at Hastings that once so aroused the wrath of Mr. Round. William is also given credit for bestowing palatine powers upon the Bishop of Durham. Our old friend, "the bull *Laudabiliter*", also raises its head, although somewhat timidly. So also reappears van Tromp's broom, sweeping the channel, a bit of vainglory of which the honest Dutchman was not guilty.

B. T.

English Farming Past and Present. By ROWLAND E. PROTHERO. (London, New York, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1912. Pp. xiii, 504.)

IN the study of history, nothing is more remarkable than the widening field of historical research, the cultivation of which must precede the writing of real history. In earlier times attention was concentrated on great personages, especially the political and military leaders of nations; and religious leaders received attention, but probably inadequate attention, except in those cases (to be sure frequent) where they were at the same time political leaders, like Mohammed and Moses. Moses helped to form a nation and no one could write the history of the Jews without writing about that statesman and religious teacher, but it is extremely doubtful if the influence of that great Jewish law-giver in American history has been adequately described.